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The eighth Session of the St. Lawrence Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, met at Fulton, Oswego County, N.Y. June 2, 1852 at one o'clock, P.M.

Conference called to order by the President and opened with reading the Scriptures of the President, and with prayer by Rev. A. C. Hand of the Champlain Conference.

Levi Wheelock appointed Secretary pro tem.

The roll called, and members present responded at the call of their names.

George Pegler re-elected President

Harvey Miles re-elected Secretary

A Committee of five were appointed to enquire into the contested election of delegates from the Lisbon charge viz: C. G. Case, J. D. Townsend, Isaac Sprague Wesley Byington, Elam Holcomb.

The Revs. Messrs. H. Benson, E. M. High, L. King, A. C. Hand, Luther Lee, and E. C. Scripture were invited to hon. Seats in Conference.

Committee on religious services H. Benson, C. G. Case, Levi Wheelock.

Committee on Orders, Sydney Super, S. Greaves, Miles Fisk.

Voted that Conference proceed to the examination of ministerial character. This was attended to in due order. Bros Sprague Townsend & Case, were made a Committee on character when objections are made against any Brother. Characters all passed.

Br. John Byington was appointed to prepare an obituary of our late Br. Josiah Jones.

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Second Day June 3rd

The session was opened by Br. Townsend, by reading the Scripture & prayer.

Rev. Levi Wheelock was appointed to prepare an obituary of our late Br. James Hewitt.

Bros Wheelock, Fisk, Mattison, Case & Pegler were appointed a Committee on Reforms.

Rev. S. B. Loomis was appointed to prepare Resolutions expressive of our sympathy for the afflicted family of our late Br. Sims.

The committee on Pastoral Relations, Sprague, Townsend, Holcomb, Zentwell Beals & Francis.

Committee on Sabbath Schools R. Chamberlin, S. Soper & S. Greaves.

Third Day June 4th

Br. Miles opened the Session within reading singing and Prayer.

Committee on Education

S. B. Loomis, H. Miles & J. Mattison

Delegates to General Conference

George Pegler, & Simon B. Loomis, ministers & C. G. Case, & E. Holcomb Laymen were Chosen.

J. D. Townsend & H. Miles Ministers, & W. Byington & J. W. Chesbro Laymen were chosen as reserves.

Fourth Day June 5th

Introductory services by Br. Dunham

The next session [sic] of the Conference was voted to be held at Watertown on the first Wednesday in June 1853, to commence at 10 AM with a Conference Program meeting

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Several Reports from Committees were presented and adopted, as follows.

On Slavery

1st Resolved that as a Conference we reiterate our testimony against the horrible sin of slavery with all its abominations, and regardless either of frowns or threats, we will not cease in every Christian & Constitutional manner to seek its speedy and entire overthrow.

2nd Resolved, That the Bill of abominations called the Fugitive Slave Law is a covenant with death and an agreement with hell, & has no binding force upon any who receive the Bible as God's revealed Will. Therefore we will not betray the Wanderer, but will tender our Sympathies and assistance as far as practicable to those who need whether they be fugitives from Austria or the Slave States of North America.

On the Sabbath

Resolved That we deem the observance of the Christian Sabbath to be of binding obligation, & that we disapprove of any of the members of this connection engaging in any pursuit which requires them to perform any business on the Sabbath day which is not strictly works of necessity, mercy or Charity.

On Temperance

Resolved that intemperance is a great & fear[full] evil, involving every crime against God & man, and is the result of what is called moderate drinking & can never be prevented while the practice of using intoxicating drinks as a beverage [insert: in continuous] ~~as an~~ [unreadable/crossed out] and the habit of drinking is not likely

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To be discontinued so long as more are authorized by law to vend intoxicating drinks as a beverage or one permitted to vend them without license, and therefore the traffic is Chargeable with all the crimes of drunkenness & ought to be suppressed by a prohibitory law, that we can see no reason why we should talk, lecture, preach, pray and sing for temperance and vote for Rum, & that it is inconsistent & prophane [sic] to pray to God to give us good rulers & good laws while we make bad ones for ourselves, therefore we will do all we reasonably can to secure the enactment of the Maine law in this state.

On Education

The Committee to whom was referred [sic] the subject of Education – Report they have had this subject under consideration, and would suggest that a proper education lies at the foundation of all true excellence of character and is also the most potent agent in reform, and that we can secure prominence to truthfull [sic] principles & triumph

to the cause of Christ as Reformers when we can diffuse a thorough & efficient education among all Classes of the People.

Therefore your committee deem education a fundamental question which claims our first attention & warmest sympathies, & whereas the Trustees of the Michigan Wesleyan University and this Conference to unite with other Conferences in raising the requisite endowment fund, to place the School upon a permanent [sic] basis, and also to offer to this Conference equal privileges [sic] & rights in said School.

Therefore your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolves
1st Resolved that we cordially accept the proposition

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Of the trustees as presented through their agent Rev. S. A. Baker.

2d Resolved that we will do all practicable to raise funds for said institution, both by sale of stock, & donations & extension of its patronage.

On Sabbath Schools

In view of the importance of teaching the children and youth the word of God & instructing them in the great plan of Salvation, therefore

Resolved that we recommend to this conference that Sabbath Schools be established at every preaching appointment, or district where there can be five children gathered together.

On Boundaries

Resolved that this conference request the General Conference to annex that part of this conference lying in St. Lawrence & Franklin Counties to the Champlain Conference, and either absorb the balance in the Rochester Conf. or annex a part of the Rochester conf, and form a new conference thereby

On the Death of Br. Sims

Whereas in the dispensation of Providence our beloved Br. I M Sims has been removed from the field of his arduous labors to glorious rewards – from loved associations of earth to the blissful [sic] Society of heaven, thus bereaving a large circle of acquaintances the church of his choice of a faithful [sic] & pious minister – distant and aged Parents [sic] brothers & sisters of a filial child & devoted brother – a fond and confiding wife and darling child of a Father & husband, Therefore Resolved that we deeply sympathize as a Conference with our esteemed Sister Sims who most keenly

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Feels this stroke, & with the Parents, [sic] Brothers & Sisters, & humbly & sincerely pray we may find in heaven the attachments that are lost to us on earth.

Appointments of the Preachers

George Pegler, President left with an appointment by his request.	
Westville & Burke	L. L. Goskin of Champlain Conf
Stockholm & Lawrence	Joel Grennell
Pierpont & Parishville	Wm P. Ray
Lisbon	James Francis
Oswegatchie	to be supplied

Morley	“ “ “
Waddington & Suckerbrook [sic]	Orlo Walbridge
Louisville	Wm S. Alden.
Elm Creek	H Miles.
Antwerp	to be supplied.
Orleans	L Wheelock.
McComb & Depuyster [sic]	S Soper.
Pillar Point	Samuel Greaves.
Watertown & Deter	M Fisk.
Loraine & Pinkney	supply themselves
Boylston	D. L. Hollis
Fulton	Henry Benson of the Rochester Conf.
Palermo	M. Q. McFarlin “ “ “
Camden	Isaac Sprague
Frankfort	G M Jenks.
Texas	Wm Dunham.
Stockbridge	Thomas Sims
Litchfield Free Congregational Church	S B Loomis
Volney	Daniel Calkins.
	Superannuated Elders
Orange Newton, Walter Burt	
	Reserve List
E. Gould, J. D. Townsend, Goerge Sims H. G. Buck	
	Returned to the unstationed List
H H Barnes, John Byington, Goerge Childs Nathan Crary	
	Conference adjourned
	George Pegler
	President